

general premise, it seems only fair that the benefits of carrying local signals should be balanced with reasonable regulatory burdens that are consistent with cable's obligations. But we should also look at reducing at least some of the "must carry" burdens—for example, why should any provider be required to carry the Home Shopping Network, which is predominantly commercial?

So what does all this mean for businesses and consumers? Hopefully, it will create more availability and affordability in television programs. And it will help to preserve local television stations, who provide all of us with vital information like news, weather, and special events—especially sports. We ought to get moving on this sooner, rather than later. It would be a mistake to wait until just before the license expires in 1999.

This measure replaces the Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panels with a Copyright Royalty Adjudication Board. In addition to its clever new acronym ("CRAB"), the Board in the future will hopefully find a better way to create parity in the fees that cable and satellite providers pay in copyright royalties. This time around, however, it would be wise to lower legislatively the recently proposed 27 cent rate.

In any event, we should view the Copyright Compulsory License Improvement Act as a point of departure rather than a final product. I am hopeful we can work with the Commerce Committee, which clearly has an important role to play in many of these matters. This measure is a significant step in promoting competition, and Senators HATCH and LEAHY deserve enormous credit for creating a constructive approach, which can only benefit consumers nationwide. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 80—CONCERNING SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF RAILROAD RETIREES

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

S. CON. RES. 80

Whereas for years, many in the railroad industry have argued that annuities paid to widows and widowers under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 are inadequate;

Whereas during the lifetime of the employee and the spouse, the employee receives a full annuity and so does the spouse;

Whereas after the employee's death, however, only a widow's or widower's annuity is payable, which under current law is less than that widow or widower received as a spouse in the month before the employee's death;

Whereas this widow's or widower's annuity is often found inadequate and leaves the survivor with less than the amount of income needed to meet ordinary and necessary living expenses; and

Whereas no outside contributions from the American taxpayer are needed, and any

changes will be paid for from within the railroad industry itself: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—*

(1) Congress recognizes the concern of many in the railroad industry that the widow's and widower's annuity under the current system is inadequate and often leaves the survivor with less than the amount of income needed to meet ordinary and necessary living expenses;

(2) Congress also recognizes that a process of dialogue must take place among all parties of the railroad community including rail labor, management, and retiree organizations before railroad annuity legislation can be enacted; and

(3) because of the self-sufficient and unique nature of the Railroad Retirement System, Congress urges and exhorts all parties of the railroad community, including rail labor, management, and retiree organizations to find a suitable way to fund an amendment that would improve the survivor benefits component to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a concurrent resolution calling on railroad employers, employees, and retiree organizations to work together to provide for a secure retirement for widows and widowers of railroad employees.

Currently, when a railroad employee retires, that retiree and his or her spouse receive 145 percent of the retiree's full retirement annuity. When that retiree dies, however, his or her spouse loses 100 percent of the retiree's annuity, leaving only a 45 percent survivor's benefit. The result can be that widows and widowers of railroad employees no longer have sufficient income on which to live.

In Illinois alone, there are over 50,000 railroad retirees. Over three-quarters of these men and women are married. If nothing is done to correct these retirement inequities, the spouses of these retirees risk spending their final years in poverty.

Many in the railroad industry acknowledge that these survivor benefits are inadequate. While railroad employees and employers pay substantially higher employment taxes than companies covered by Social Security, the higher taxes are not reflected in the level of benefits to which widows and widowers of retirees are entitled.

This resolution calls on the railroad industry to forge a consensus to solve this problem. The resolution urges that rail labor, management, and retiree organizations open discussions for adequately funding an amendment to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to modify the guaranteed minimum benefit for widows and widowers whose annuities are converted from a spouse to a widow or widower annuity.

I introduced a provision to allow for the payment of a survivor annuity to divorced widows and widowers of railroad retirees as part of the Women's Pension Equity Act of 1996. Under current law, a divorced spouse can receive certain retiree benefits but these end when the retiree dies. This loss of benefits can be devastating for divorced spouses who have been supporting themselves in their old age.

I am working to correct this illogical and unjust provision in the law, but without increasing survivor benefits, all widows and widowers, whether married or divorced, are at risk. Having survivor benefits today is not a guarantee of a secure retirement.

This resolution requires no expenditures of taxpayer funds, but merely expresses the intent of Congress that the issue of inadequate retirement income for widows and widowers of railroad retirees be resolved. This concurrent resolution was submitted in the House of Representatives by Congressman Jack Quinn, as House Concurrent Resolution 52.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this concurrent resolution to improve retirement security for tens of thousands of widows and widowers across the country.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION—192—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO CHANGE THE CULTURE OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Mr. BIDEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

S. RES. 192

Whereas many college presidents rank alcohol abuse as the number one problem on campus;

Whereas alcohol is a factor in the 3 leading causes of death for individuals aged 15 through 24 (accidents, homicides, and suicides);

Whereas more than any other group, college students tend to consume large numbers of drinks in rapid succession with the intention of becoming drunk;

Whereas 84 percent of college students report drinking alcohol during the school year, with 44 percent of all college students qualifying as binge drinkers and 19 percent of all college students qualifying as frequent binge drinkers;

Whereas alcohol is involved in a large percentage of all campus rapes, violent crimes, student suicides, and fraternity hazing accidents;

Whereas heavy alcohol consumption on college campuses can result in drunk driving crashes, hospitalization for alcohol overdoses, trouble with police, injury, missed classes, and academic failure;

Whereas the second-hand effects of student alcohol consumption range from assault, property damage, and unwanted sexual advances, to interruptions in study or sleep, or having to "babysit" another student who drank too much; and

Whereas campus binge drinking can also lead to the death of our Nation's young and promising students: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as "The Collegiate Initiative To Reduce Binge Drinking Resolution".

#### SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that, in an effort to change the culture of alcohol consumption on college campuses, all institutions of higher education should carry out the following: